

Fishing Motivated Settlement Of Utah Valley; Beef Was Scarce

Historians who have delved into the early beginnings of this community say that fishing seems to have been a considerable factor in the settlement of Utah county, even as iron motivated the colonization of Iron county.

The first general epistle of the First Presidency to the Saints, issued sometime following the April conference, 1849, supplemented as follows:

Beef Was Scarce—
"About thirty of the brethren have recently gone to the Utah Valley, about 60 miles south, to establish a small colony for agricultural purposes, and fishing, hoping thereby to lessen the call for beef, which at the present time is rather scarce, at an average of seven and eight cents per pound, but will improve with the vegetation."

It was a carefully organized and amply equipped company of 30 families that pushed southward from Great Salt Lake City, early in the spring of 1849, into the chosen land of the Utes by Utah lake, Fremont and the mountaineers had pointed to it as a particularly choice spot, so much so that for a time Heber C. Kimball weighed the advisability of making it the initial starting place. If they had, Provo would have become the principal city of the territory instead of Great Salt Lake City.

Indians Suspicious—
Tradition has it that Indian braves met the advancing wave of civilization, and intuitively sensing the danger, made Dimmick B. Huntington, the interpreter, swear by the sun that the white would not drive the aborigines from their favorite lands and haunts of their ancestors. Then and then only were the colonists permitted to cross Timpanogos (Provo) river and begin the formation of a settlement.

Three days it had taken the colonists to reach their destination with their provisions, seed, implements of husbandry, and livestock, so it was approximately March 12, 1849, when Provo began its existence. A stockade of upright logs, closely planted and 14 feet high, supplied a protected area, 20 by 40 rods, which contained the log houses of the settlers and all their earthly possessions. On an elevated structure in the center of the fort (Fort Utah) stood a solitary cannon whose occasional discharge was designed to command the respect of the savage. Exceeding industry on the land, and the warming rays of the sun on the 225 newly turned acres, in the fort field, (near the Walter Cox home on West Drive) gave promise of a bounteous crop when, on May 23, a severe snow storm followed by frost, ruined their dream of plenty.

Church Sponsored

The state of Deseret did not motivate the Provo colonizing project; it was sponsored exclusively by the church and was under the ecclesiastical and temporal direction of a presidency of three men, John S. Higbee, president, and Isaac Higbee and Dimmick B. Huntington as counselors.

the General Assembly of the State of Deseret Aaron Johnson was appointed chief justice and William Miller and J. T. Willis associate justices, Isaac Higbee, clerk and recorder, and Alexander Williams, sheriff of Utah county.

County Court in 1851—

The county court of Utah held its initial session in March, 1851, the minutes of which chronicle the appointment of a county commissioner, a justice, and a constable. The court record shows that the first case called for trial was on March 3, 1851, a horse stealing case, styled the State of Deseret vs. Henry Myer. A grand jury preferred the charge, and a petit jury tried the case and found the defendant guilty. The judgment of the court was that Myer pay \$300 and costs of court, or labor on the public works for three years.

Provo Early Center for Cooperatives

Provo was a center of early-day cooperative merchandising movements. Indeed Provo made a bid for the merchandising spotlight of the entire state in the sixties.

Three principal mercantile institutions were doing business in the Garden City, Jones & Bachman, Peter Stubbs, and Kimball & Lawrence. The latter was a well-known Salt Lake firm which had opened a branch store in Provo early in 1868.

Then came the championing of the cooperative movement by Samuel S. Jones. He and David John conferred with Abraham O. Smoot, formerly mayor of Salt Lake City, but now president of that church stake and probably the most important man in Utah county. Public meetings followed private conferences, and on December 4, 1868, a preliminary organization was effected.

Existing firms agreed to merge their interests, fresh subscriptions were received, and active steps taken preparatory to opening the institution which, on January 5, 1869, was christened the "Provo Co-operative Institution."

Present at the shareholders meeting of February 8 were President Brigham Young, Apostle Franklin D. Richards, Apostle George Q. Cannon, Apostle Joseph F. Smith, Henry W. Lawrence and other Salt Lake City notables.

President Young advised the management to buy goods directly from the east and undercut the Salt Lake merchants, who had no one to blame but themselves if commercial supremacy passed to Provo. He backed his words by offering to invest \$5000 in the institution. Henry W. Lawrence's offer of the large stock and new store building of Kimball & Lawrence put the cooperative institution immediately under way. Promoter Jones was given the managership of the Relief society and West Branch of the Co-operative Institution, particularly known as "West Co-op."

SPORTS

(Continued from Page Three)

men have brought honor and glory to their school as well as to themselves by outstanding performances in national competition. Alma Richards captured the high jump championship of the world in 1912 and the decathlon title in 1913. Clint Larson held the unofficial world's record for many years, and many other B. Y. U. performers have turned in brilliant marks in national play, including such stars as Dale Schofield, Hugh Cannon, Cy Ellsworth, Henry Bourne, and others.

BOXING

Provo's chief claim to distinction in the pugilistic world is the fact that Jack Dempsey, heavyweight champion of the world and one of the greatest fighters of all time, made his home here and received his first fighting experience in a local ring. Dempsey, who blacked shoes for a living while here, was matched against a Greek boxer in a bout at the Provo Opera House and was knocked out.

The recreation program has done much to stimulate interest in athletics in Provo, particularly in swimming, which is constantly growing in popularity here with many taking

D-T-R Company To Its 20th Anniversary

Although preparing to celebrate its 20th anniversary, Dixon Taylor Russell Co. in reality a pioneer in home furnishings business Utah.

George Taylor, Sr., father of the late Arthur N. Taylor, founder of the local company, grandfather of some of present officers, established first furniture business south of Salt Lake City in 1866.

This same George Taylor, at the age of 83 took a personal interest in, and actively supported the launching of Dixon Taylor Russell Co., 1921.

A modern building was erected on the present site to house the new business. At that time practically all of Provo's business houses were on the north side of Center street and Provo was known far and wide for this unique situation. The south side, from First West down, which is now graced by Provo's newest stores, was then devoted

to the advantage of the North Provo swimming pool. Bowling, archery, wrestling, badminton, fencing, and numerous other sports are also popular and have been in the history of Provo.

OVER 70 YEARS OF PROGRESS

A pioneer in the Building Materials industry known as Provo Lumber Manufacturing Company, organized by Abraham Smoot, Mayor of Provo, and later known as the Smoot Lumber Company, managed by the founder, Smoot and son of the founder.

This company, being a leader in the industry, was instrumental in furnishing building materials for numerous public buildings, homes in Central and Southern Utah, and contracts was the original building material for the Hospital. The latest order a 40,000 pound ammunition boxes for the Ogden Arsenal National Defense Program.

The Tri-State Lumber Company, of the Smoot Lumber Company, the Gem State Lumber Company, and the Gem State Lumber Company is a Utah Corporation owned and people.

A large number of the employees are owners and take an active part in the affairs.

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These men, humbled by the crop catastrophe, re-dedicated their lives to Mormonism and to their mission by administering the ordinance of rebaptism, a religious ceremonial having for its purpose something more sacred and binding than the Pilgrim's Compact.

The limited harvest was gathered in due time, a tannery was introduced, and the want for a saw mill satisfied within the year. Marriages occurred, of course, and education was not forgotten. The colony was slowly but surely getting on its feet.

Adobe houses made their first appearance in 1851. In the October 1850 sessions of

ferred the charge, and a petit jury tried the case and found the defendant guilty. The judgment of the court was that Myer pay \$300 and costs of court, or labor on the public works for three years.

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As Provo stepped into the merchantile spotlight, Salt Lake City merchants sensed the gravity of the situation and bestirred themselves to retain the leadership that was slipping from their grasp. Soon the idea of making Provo the commercial headquarters and business distributing center of Utah had been proven slightly unsound, as it were.

Even before organization of the Provo Co-operative Store there was a cooperative store in operation at Spanish Fork, under management of James Miller, and a "People's Co-operative Store" at Lehi which during the first six months paid its stockholders a dividend of 20 per cent.

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The Tri-State Lumber Company is a continuation of the Smoot Lumber Company, the Bonanza Lumber Company, and the Gem State Lumber Company. It is a Utah Corporation owned and operated by the same people.

A large number of the employees are stockholders and owners and take an active part in the company's affairs.

Throughout the years the Company has been known for their dependable material and service. They have kept abreast with the times and have cooperated with the Federal Housing Administration.

Let Us Help You With Your Building Program

TRI-STATE LUMBER
"Where Budget Payments Make It Possible"

590 South University Avenue :—: Provo